

WE CLAIM:

1. A gateway comprising:
 - a first port coupled to a first network;
 - a second port coupled to a second network;
- 5 processes implemented within the gateway for identifying at least one service provided by the first network that is not provided by the second network; and
 - processes implemented within the gateway for implementing the at least one service on behalf of the second network.
- 10 2. The gateway of claim 1 further comprising processes implemented within the gateway for determining when the at least one service is implemented in the second network; and
 - processes implemented within the gateway for ceasing the provision of the at least one service in favor of allowing the second network to provide the at least one service.
3. The gateway of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises a Fibre Channel network.
4. The gateway of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises an Internet Protocol network.
- 20 5. The gateway of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises a storage area network (SAN).
6. The gateway of claim 1 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is a naming service and the processes implemented within the gateway comprise a naming service implemented on behalf of the second network.
- 25 7. The gateway of claim 1 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network comprises a discovery service and the

processes implemented within the gateway comprise a discovery service implemented on behalf of the second network.

8. The gateway of claim 1 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is a zoning service and the processes
5 implemented within the gateway comprise zoning service implemented on behalf of the second network.

9. The gateway of claim 1 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is security service and the processes implemented within the gateway comprise a security service implemented
10 on behalf of the second network.

10. A method for configuring a heterogeneous network comprising:

providing a gateway having a first port coupled to a first network and a second port coupled to a second network;

15 identifying at least one service provided by the first network that is not provided by the second network.; and

implementing the at least one service in the gateway on behalf of the second network while the second network is unable to implement that service.

20 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

determining when the at least one service is implemented in the second network; and

ceasing the implementation of the at least one service in the gateway in favor of allowing the second network to provide the at least one
25 service.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises a Fibre Channel network.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises an Internet Protocol network.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein at least one of the first and second networks comprises a storage area network (SAN).

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is a naming service and the act of
5 implementing the at least one service in the gateway comprises implementing a naming service implemented on behalf of the second network.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network comprises a discovery service the act of
10 implementing the at least one service in the gateway comprises implementing a discovery service on behalf of the second network.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is a zoning service the act of implementing the at least one service in the gateway comprises implementing a zoning
15 service on behalf of the second network.

18. The gateway of claim 10 wherein the at least one service provided by the first network is security service a the act of implementing the at least one service in the gateway comprises implementing a security service on behalf of the second network.

20 19. A gateway for joining disparate networks, the gateway comprising:

a first port coupled to a first network;
a second port coupled to a second network;
processes in communication with the first port and the second port
25 for identifying at least one device on each of the incompatible networks;
processes in communication with the first port and the second port
for creating a virtual representation of each of the identified devices
a connection between each virtual representation and the at least
one identified device that is being represented; and

a connection between the virtual representations to implement a functional connection between the identified devices.